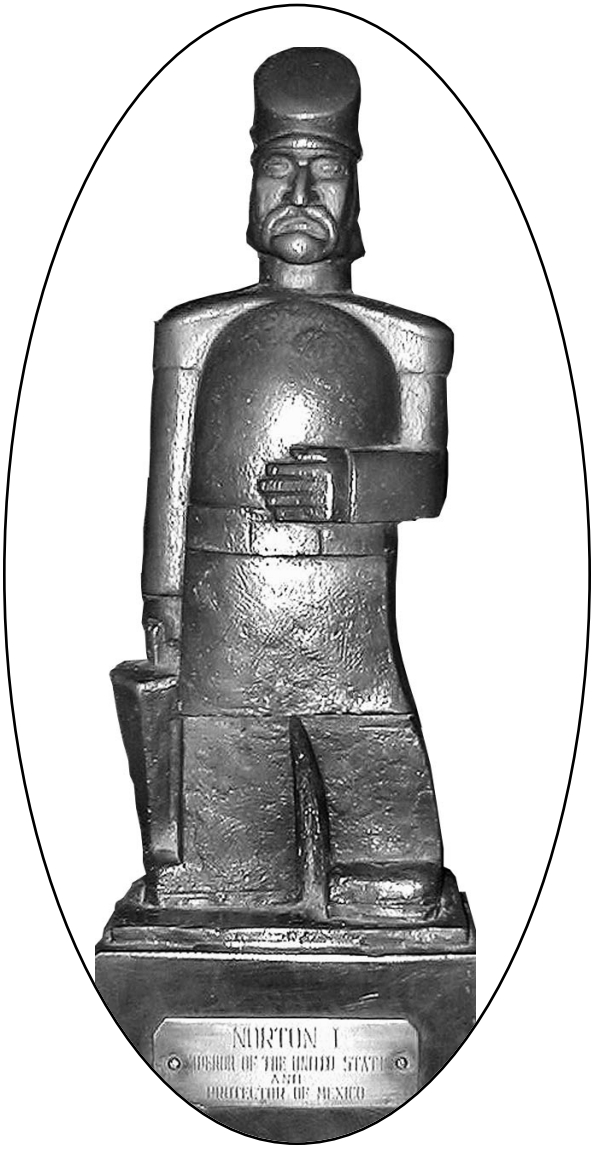
The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS



Telegraph Hill: The Emperor's New Home?

ISSUE 160 **SUMMER 2002**

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Cover: In 1933, North Beach artist Peter Macchiarini sculpted this prototype of a monument to San Francisco's legendary eccentric, Emperor Joshua Norton. Now, nearly 70 years later, his son, Daniel, is hoping to erect the statue at the top of the Peter Macchiarini steps at Vallejo and Kearny. Photo by Katie-Rose Calder. Story on pg. 12

Printed on Recycled paper

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Gerry Crowley

Because some of our members have contacted me about inaccurate press coverage on the Savoy Tivoli licensure issue, it seems appropriate to set the record straight. To begin with, Telegraph Hill Dwellers did not cause the Savoy Tivoli on Grant Avenue to be closed.

What happened was this: In compliance with state law, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) required the owner of the Savoy Tivoli to file for a different type of licensure, from a restaurant/bar license to a bar-only license, since food had not been served there for almost two decades. When notice of a new license application was posted in December 2000, the public had an opportunity to file protests. As part of the process, ABC asked for the San Francisco Police Department's record of complaints at the subject address. It was determined that there were numerous complaints from neighbors about excessive noise, complaints which had been registered over many years. At the same time, 17 new noise complaints were filed directly with the ABC in January and February 2001. Subsequently, the owner was asked by ABC and SFPD to take steps to reduce the noise in order for the license application to proceed.

In December 2001, aware that nothing had been done to mitigate the noise issue during the past year, I met with protesters to determine what their specific issues were and to assure myself that no one wanted the Savoy Tivoli to close. On the following day, I met with the owner and advised her that the protesters wanted her to hire an acoustical engineer to analyze the premises and then make recommendations for sound abatement. I also told her everyone wanted the Savoy Tivoli to remain open. After more than one year without efforts to address the noise issue, in early February 2002, ABC enacted a 10-day suspension for operating without the proper license. On February 28, 2001, I testified at a the Neighborhood Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors that THD supported a noise mitigation agreement between the owner and SFPD and commended the owner for making an effort to be a good neighbor. On March 11, the full Board of Supervisors passed a resolution agreeing with SFPD's recommendation that issuance of a new license, with conditions, would serve the convenience of the people of San Francisco. ABC's local

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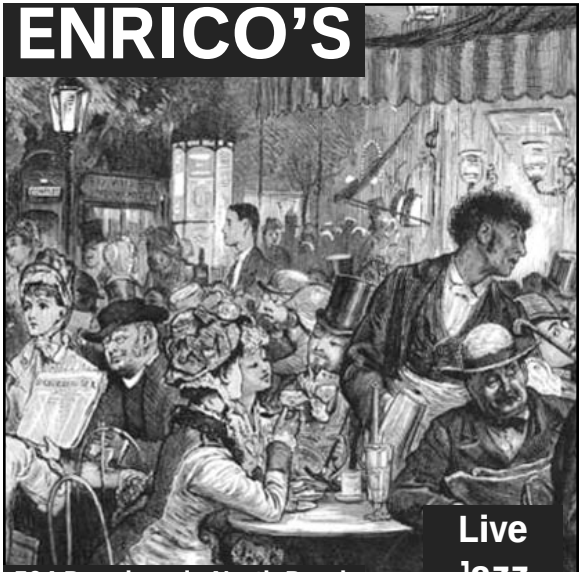

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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office made some changes to the conditions of the license and sent it to Sacramento for approval and issuance of an interim license. ABC in Sacramento returned the case to its San Francisco office asking for more stringent conditions. When the owner signed the latest version of the agreement, an interim license was issued on May 2 with a reopening scheduled for the same day. It is anticipated that appropriate noise reduction measures will be effective and that the owner will be issued a permanent license in the near future.

The Savoy Tivoli is a vibrant part of nightlife in the North Beach community. It has always been Telegraph Hill Dwellers' position to bring the owner, residents and appropriate government agencies together to resolve the issue of noise reduction and to have this vital business thrive. As residents, we choose to live in North Beach-Telegraph Hill for the diversity it offers, including the unique mix of bars, clubs, restaurants, cafes, shops, views, artists. musicians, poets, tourists and even housing density.

Although we have always supported local businesses, Telegraph Hill Dwellers has recently increased its efforts to work with merchants on various projects focusing on the business and artistic sectors of North Beach, hoping to attract more visitors to our special neighborhood during the current downturn in the economy. We are working with businesses and the Department of Public Works to beautify and maintain cleanliness in North Beach. We are working with merchants and Friends of Washington Square to improve the lighting in The Square. We supplied more than 40 volunteers for O'Reilly's Oyster and Beer Festival in March, which resulted in a contribution of more than $7,000 to benefit Friends of Washington Square. Thank you publican Myles O'Reilly for being a thoughtful, generous neighbor. We are working with the sponsors of the North Beach Jazz Festival to augment the Jazz on Grant opening night festivities. We'd like to include merchant activities and cocktail receptions for attendees, in order to showcase Grant Avenue merchants. We are working with merchants, artists, poets and others to create a one-day art fair to be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, an art fair reminiscent of those which originated 50 years ago on Grant Avenue. Further, we welcome member participation and suggestions on how we can support our partners in the community.

***

This past winter, THD's Board of Directors voted to submit two ballot arguments for the Voter Information Pamphlet, which is mailed to all registered voters. I am pleased to report that

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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the electorate overwhelmingly passed both ballot measures. Proposition D creates a semblance of a balance of power between the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors on land use issues by providing three Board of Supervisors appointees to the Planning Commission and two appointees to the Board of Appeals. Proposition G bans new billboards in our fair city, removing the possibility of additional commercial blight in North Beach.

***

In February, THD's Board of Directors monthly meeting was hosted by the new Omni San Francisco Hotel at the corner of California and Montgomery. Respectfully restored, the 1926 property also provided a state-of-the-art meeting space for us. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the Telegraph Hill Room, board members enjoyed a glass of champagne. When our meeting concluded, Omni hosted a wine reception and cocktail buffet. It was a special evening hosted by a special hotel. When you're in the area, stop in for a visit, if only to enjoy the magnificent chandeliers in the lobby.

***

It has been a year since Telegraph Hill provided a movie set for a major Hollywood production.

SHOP LOCALLY!

Keep small shops in our neighborhood. They can't exist without your support!

When the location manager for "The Hulk" contacted me on January 31 to discuss plans for a two-week shoot at Vallejo and Montgomery, I was impressed not only with the amount of advance notice but with the comprehensive plan to address neighborhood concerns. At my request, Location Manager Rory Enke and San Francisco Film Commission Director Martha Cohen held two community meetings at the filming site in February.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers understands the huge contribution that film companies make to the City's economy and we always seek to balance the needs of the City with the inconvenience to our neighborhood. Telegraph Hill Dwellers has been preserving and protecting North Beach-Telegraph Hill for five decades and while doing so has, in effect, maintained a movie set that would cost mega millions to create on a Hollywood lot. We also realize that our Canadian neighbors are aggressively competing for American film production dollars. Not only do we appreciate the cooperative spirit of those who are inconvenienced by film shoots, but we applaud the countless hours of volunteerism from members of Telegraph Hill Dwellers who have fought the battles to maintain the unique aspects of our special neighborhood.

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Planning and Zoning Committee Report

By Mary Lipian, Nan Roth and Nancy Shanahan

I. Telegraph Hill Historic District

(This district, on the east side of Telegraph Hill, was established in 1986 to preserve the largest group of pre-1870 structures in the City.)

1. **290 Union St.**—The Planning Commission took formal action (upheld by the Board of Appeals) requiring the developer to bring this project into conformance with the original Landmarks Board and Commission approvals. Because the project sponsor appears to have done nothing to comply, the issue has been referred to the Planning Department's Enforcement Division.

2. **The Heslett Compound**—This collection of historic, pre-1906-earthquake cottages in the stairway garden along the Greenwich Steps is still on the market with offers pending as of the Semaphore deadline. THD is concerned that this sensitive part of the Telegraph Hill Historic District could be threatened by possible demolition and has advised the Seller of the historic district protections.

II. Other Residential Projects

1. **139-145 Jasper Place**—This is a proposal to install a garage. THD reviewed the proposed plans and requested changes to reduce the impact of the project to this charming building, including guarantees that the original windows will be preserved and that the garage door design will be appropriate for the building.

2. **201 Chestnut Street**—This proposal to demolish an existing six-unit (currently vacant) apartment building and build in its place a 2-unit residential structure including an owners' unit and one large apartment was approved by the Planning Commission at a Discretionary Review Hearing. THD supported the design and envelope of the proposed building as conforming to neighborhood character, but expressed concern about the loss of 4 dwelling units.

3. **12 Reno Place**—In addition to major changes to the front facade and roof of this building, the owner is proposing to construct a garage for a small car within and beneath Reno Place, resulting in the conversion of this historic wooden walkway into a "driveway." The Planning and Zoning Committee opposes this proposal because of its impacts to the pedestrian alley.

4. **1454-56 Kearny Street**—This is a proposal to demolish the existing house, which has recently suffered major fire damage, and rebuild on the site. Although the Planning and Zoning Committee expressed support for a project to rehabilitate or replace the damaged structure as quickly as possible, there is concern that the height of the proposed new structure is excessive and may exceed the area's 40-foot height limit. The project proponent has filed an application for a demolition permit.

5. **391 Filbert (corner of Filbert Steps and Kearny adjacent to Pioneer Park**)—Last July, the Zoning Administrator approved a rear yard variance allowing for the significant expansion of this cottage specifically conditioned on THD's review and approval of the final design. The owner is now working with the P & Z Committee to develop the detailed articulation of the Filbert and Kearny elevations to ensure compatibility of the altered structure with this important site on the steps to Coit Tower.

6. **544 Lombard St. (between Powell and Stockton)**—Proposal to construct a new two-unit building at the rear of the lot required a rear-yard variance that has been granted, subject to conditions suggested by THD that the design of the building conform to the residential character of North Beach. These conditions include painted wood siding and vertical double hung windows, and that the light and air of adjacent neighbors be preserved to the extent possible by pulling back the rear of the building and minimizing the size of decks and landings in the remaining rear yard open space. An adjoining neighbor has filed a request for discretionary review of the project by the Planning Commission.

7. **430 Vallejo**—After over two years of construction — without a permit — to the roof and rear yard areas, including a stair penthouse, roof deck, skylights, a roof top sauna room and bathtub, a rear spiral stairway and landing, the owner of this property has been notified by the zoning administrator that he must resolve all code violations or remove the work. This will require applying for and justifying a rear yard variance and obtaining all necessary permits to legalize the work.

PLANNING AND ZONING

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III. North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District

(In 1987, the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District Ordinance was adopted to maintain the character of and mix of businesses in North Beach.)

1. **474 Columbus Ave.**—After a long wait, this storefront, vacated several years ago by Radio Shack, will soon be an Italian candy store called Z Cioccolato.

2. **701 Lombard Street (triangular parking lot bounded by Columbus, Lombard and Mason across from the North Beach Pool)**—The project proposed for this approximately 4,000-square foot site is a four-story, nine-unit condominium. It will be 40 feet high, and include 10 feet of rooftop features, with two very small ground floor retail shops on the Columbus Avenue elevation and nine interior ground floor parking stalls. THD has expressed concern that the proposed height and size of the project could affect the adjacent North Beach Playground. It would also be out of scale with the surrounding buildings, and the token retail frontage would conflict with requirements of the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District and the City's General Plan. In addition, there is community interest in acquiring the undeveloped parcel for the site of a new North Beach Library.

3. **1249-55 Grant Ave. (Caffe Trieste)**—An application for a seismic/structural upgrade permit has been filed for the building that houses the Caffe Trieste. THD has been concerned that the method to be used for this work will affect the facade and windows of the caffe. Although the impacts have been substantially reduced over what was originally proposed, the project would still require closing in two or three window lights on the transom along Grant Avenue. (This is the transom at the back of the caffe that does not have a storefront window below.) A large structural beam is to be placed in the coffee roastery storefront.

4. **1968 Powell (SF Battle Zone)**—The small grocery store that occupied this address for years was converted into an Internet cafe without a permit. On March 13, the zoning administrator (ZA) determined that personal computers used for game playing fall under the definition of "Amusement Game Arcades," which

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PLANNING AND ZONING *continued from previous page*

are not permitted in Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCD). The ZA's determination elaborated that if there are 10 or fewer mechanical or electrical amusement devices, the use would be classified as "Other Entertainment" which, according to the North Beach NCD, would require a conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission. The City sent the owners of SF Battle Zone a notice of violation. The owners have appealed the ZA's determination to the Board of Appeals, and a hearing has been scheduled for May 29.

IV. Waterfront

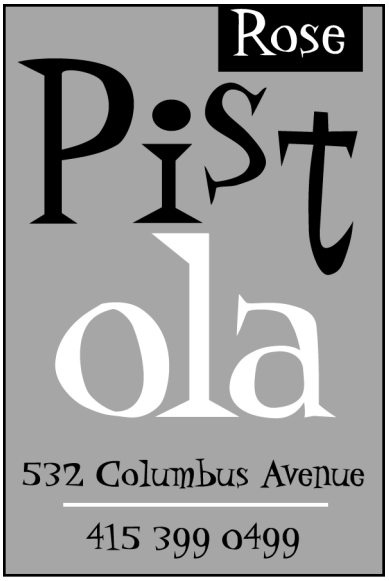
1. **Northern Waterfront National Register Historic District.** With THD's support, the Port is in the process of preparing a National Register nomination of it properties along the northern waterfront (from Pier 45 to Pier 48). Completion is expected this summer.

2. **Piers 1-1/2, 3 and 5**—This redevelopment and historic rehabilitation project involves the replacement of what is now primarily office space with a mixture of office, retail, restaurants and cafes. Although predominantly office space, it incorporates features such as the Port Walk, in an imaginative and creative way that will enliven and enrich the waterfront to a greater degree than other projects. The developer is seeking to take advantage of the 20 percent Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit which is dependant upon the listing of the Northern Waterfront as a National Register Historic District (see Item 1 above). The project is currently under environmental review.

3. **Piers 27-31**—The Port executed a development memorandum with the Mills Corporation on March 29 and the environmental review of the project is underway. The effort to establish the Northern Waterfront National Register Historic District (see Item 1 above) must be completed in order for Mills to obtain the 20 percent Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit for restoring the historic structures. While the executed development memorandum would seem to preclude any further programming changes to this project, it continues to concern the northeast waterfront community, including the Fisherman's Wharf merchants, because it will add new office, retail and restaurant space, all at the expense of the project's mandated focus on recreation. THD will continue to play an active role in working towards further modifications to bring the project into compliance with the Port's original request for proposals (RFP).

4. **Embarcadero Hotel Project at Broadway and The Embarcadero (NE Waterfront Historic District)**—There have been no further developments on this project since the Port instructed the developer to keep the design of the hotel within the 65 foot maximum height limit stipulated in the RFP. The Port's stance on this issue is good news since the most recent design proposal was 84 feet high. Because this project was first approved in 1997 and there have been several major redesigns since then, there may be additional revisions presented. THD will continue to monitor this project with particular concern for the project's height, size, massing, materials, compatibility with the historic district, and relationship to the contour of Telegraph Hill. THD opposes a structure on this site whose height and mass would block views of Telegraph Hill from The Embarcadero.

5. **Broadway Family Apartments (NE Waterfront Historic District)**—Two years ago, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) was awarded a contract by the Mayor's Office of Housing to develop affordable housing on a City-owned site on the north side of Broadway between Battery and Front Streets. THD has been involved in design development as a member of the Community Advisory Committee. The project consists of an eight-story concrete building at the corner of Battery and Broadway and two smaller wood-frame buildings on Broadway and Battery atop a garage. It will include 85 units of affordable rental housing, a childcare center, 2,000 square feet of commercial space and parking. Application has



PLANNING AND ZONING

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been made for a certificate of appropriateness from the Landmarks Board and a conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2003.

6. **55 Francisco Street**—This project involves a two-lot subdivision of an approximately 48,700 sq. ft lot containing an existing office building fronting on Montgomery Street and a four-story, commercial parking garage fronting on Francisco Street. Although the owner provided no formal proposals for the use of the site or the reason for the lot split, the tentative subdivision map was approved by the City and the applicant now has two years to complete the process and record the final map—with liberal provision for extensions. The Planning Department responded favorably to concerns raised by THD and nearby neighbors by extending the development restraints on the original parcel to the newly subdivided parcels. A proposal is currently underway for housing on the site of the garage.

V. Jackson Square Historic District

(Established in 1972, this is the City's first historic district. The district is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

1. **Special Commercial District Legislation Proposed**—Supervisor Peskin is working with Save Jackson Square to draft special ground floor commercial district-type controls to stop the conversion of retail spaces to office use and to encourage an environment more conducive to the type of retail activities that have been the history of Jackson Square.

2. **722-724 and 726-728 Montgomery Street (Belli Building)**—Effective March 1, 2002, a settlement agreement was signed by the owner of these 1850s buildings (Landmarks No. 9 and 10) to settle the City Attorney's lawsuit. The settlement agreement provides that the owner protect the historic exterior against deterioration due to exposure to the elements and that she repair and restore the building expeditiously, diligently and continuously to completion in accordance with a specific time schedule set forth in the agreement. The settlement agreement also requires the owner to pay $140,000 in fines to the City.

3. 449-451 Pacific Ave. (Engine Company No. 1)—The Landmarks Board approved changes to this building that will result in the addition of property line windows in the original western wall of the building, add windscreens to the roof deck within public view and increase the height of a third-level penthouse. Although Save Jackson Square, SF Heritage and THD convinced the Landmarks Board to recommend against allowing the installation at the ground floor level of a "changing media display of text and image that will communicate to passersby and will be visible to those navigating down Osgood Place," it is our understanding that the Planning Department may have approved this alteration as well.

VI. Landmarks

1. **The Colombo Building**—Initiated by the Board of Supervisors, the designation of this building as City Landmark No. 237 has been approved by both the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission, and will soon be enacted into law by the Board of Supervisors. Plans to restore the Colombo Building as a part of the new City College North Beach/Chinatown campus are underway.

2. **Saints Peters and Paul Cathedral (Washington Square)**—Work is underway to repair and replace badly deteriorated portions of the stone material on front facade. At THD's request, the Archdiocese hired a well-known conservationist with expertise in the type of stone involved to recommend the method and materials to be used, and to observe the work in progress. THD appreciates the cooperation of the Archdiocese as to this significant building in our neighborhood.

Kearny Street Stepping Toward Beautification

By Bob McMillan

After years of neglect, the Peter Macchiarini Steps are getting the full attention of Telegraph Hill residents, with not one but two separate initiatives now in play to beautify this sparse and steep stretch of pavement along Kearny between Broadway and Vallejo.

The first and best-known plan is to build a 12-foot statue to San Francisco legend Emperor Joshua Norton, the self-proclaimed Emperor of America and Protector of Mexico. Norton, after losing a fortune in a failed bid to corner the rice market, became a beloved, if completely insane, fixture in San Francisco's public life. Based on a design by another beloved San Francisco fixture, Peter Macchiarini, the statue was proposed as a privately funded gift to the City, to be built at or near the top of the Macchiarini Steps—a location chosen because it is both the site of Macchiarini's first studio, and because it overlooks Norton's Broadway stomping ground.

Backers of the monument held several community meetings last fall. After presenting their plans to the THD Board in February, the Board unanimously passed a motion supporting the project's concept, contingent upon THD be included in the process of reviewing the final drawing. This review was scheduled to occur at the THD Board's May meeting (*which was held after we went to press—ed.*).

Plans for the statue were to go before the San Francisco Arts Commission's Consent Calendar on April 1, but they were kicked back to the Visual Arts Committee for further review after Telegraph Hill residents, Gerry Hurtado, Marv Kasoff and Julienne Christensen raised concerns about the safety and potential impact of the proj-

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Beautification Committee News

By Jan Holloway

TGH Art Auction

Several nostalgic photographs and wonderful paintings of local neighborhood scenes contributed by North Beach artists were auctioned this April at the TGH General Membership dinner, held at the Italian Athletic Club.

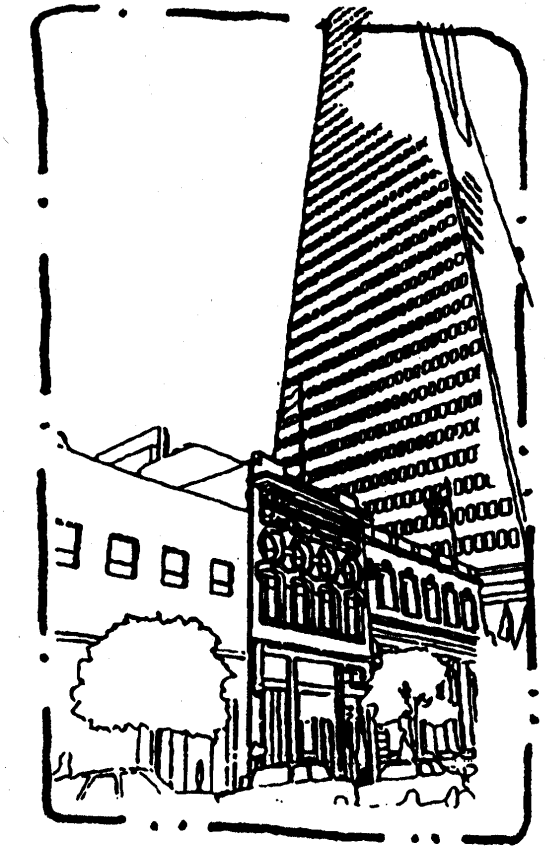
Held to benefit our "Update and Redesign the THD Stationery Logo Fund," the auction was inspired by the donation of two paintings from the estate of Paul Stempen, a young San Francisco artist. Stempen had agreed to provide some art work for the logo project but his life was cut short by a heart attack in December 2000.

The idea to auction his studies for the project grew to include a larger group that included donor artists Conrado Henriques, Dennis Hearne, Hugh Linn, Alison Wold, Peter Macchiarini and Gene Wright. We also enlisted the help of Elizabeth Ashcroft, a North Beach artist with a studio at 250 Columbus, who gave valuable assistance in locating local photographers and painters who might participate in our cause.

Thirteen pictures came up on the block and with the assertive prompting of our auctioneer, San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin, THDers dug deep into their wallets. Bidding was spirited and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the artists and anonymous donors.

Adopt-a-Street

The committee continues to work with North Beach merchants and residents in this joint effort with DPW to clean up our streets. You should be seeing metal-backed "adopter" placards in shop and cafe windows, indicating their owners' commitment to maintaining the immediate block, encouraging neighbors to do likewise, and urging you to call 28-CLEAN for assistance. Businesses on the roster as of publication are Graffeo Coffee Roasting Company, Caffe Roma, Truffles, Clark Mann Associates, Caffe Greco, Caffe La Piazza, North Beach Restaurant, Maykadeh and Swag Window Treatments. Please, when you see the placard, compliment the businesses on their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in a program that benefits us all.



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KEARNY STAIRS

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ect. The Arts Commission is now expected to vote on the matter on May 22, after which other city departments, including parking and traffic, would need to sign off, according to Arts Commission staffer Debra Lehane. Ultimately, the Norton statue will land before the Board of Supervisors, who'll decide on whether or not to issue an encroachment permit, says Lehane.

Even as Emperor Norton's moment of truth approaches, four designs for the revamping of the Macchiarini Steps have received their first public viewing. Backed by Kasoff and Christensen, as well as San Francisco Arts Commissioner Rod Freebairn-Smith, the designs all involve widening the stairs and reducing the amount of road. Two of the designs, contributed by Freebairn-Smith, call for the addition of trees, rest spots, and play spaces along the steps. The new Macchiarini Steps designs were unveiled at a small community meeting of Vallejo street residents on April 30.

Backers of these more comprehensive plans intent to solicit community and city input on the designs and to figure out how such a major project will be funded. According to Christensen, the City already has a plan to re-pave this part of Kearny Street in 2003. "The thought was, let's take that to the next step," she says.

One of the sponsors of the Emperor Norton monument, John Calder, says that his project is in no way at add odds with the proposed redesign of the Macchiarini steps, but Christensen disagrees. While she sees the possibility of placing a scaled-down version of the statue somewhere on the steps, she says that the goals of the proposed plans, "views, open space, safety, and more ephemeral issues like proportion and sense of place," are "at odds" with the proposed Emperor Norton statue.

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Muni Picks a Winner

By Cheryl Bentley

During the tourist season, Muni's 39 Coit driver, Jose Meza, told passengers—in English, Spanish, and Italian—the way to Fisherman's Wharf at least 50 times a day. But he never lost patience; in fact, he enjoyed the tourists, embellishing directions with jokes and smiles.

Locals also received Jose's special treatment. The 23-year Muni veteran always pulled up to the curb and lowered the step—efforts that made Meza stand out among Muni drivers.

Chugging up our hills, the 39 is a kind of moving neighborhood hangout, where residents get to know one another. Jose's bus was one in which you chatted with old friends and made new ones on the way up the hill. He was especially partial to the elderly, helping with bags, making special stops to save steps, and telling the women how lovely they looked.

Jose transferred to a new line earlier this year. He is missed.

To tell Muni how much you appreciate Jose —or any of the other 39 Coit drivers — all 923-6164. Commendations from passengers are highly prized by Muni drivers.

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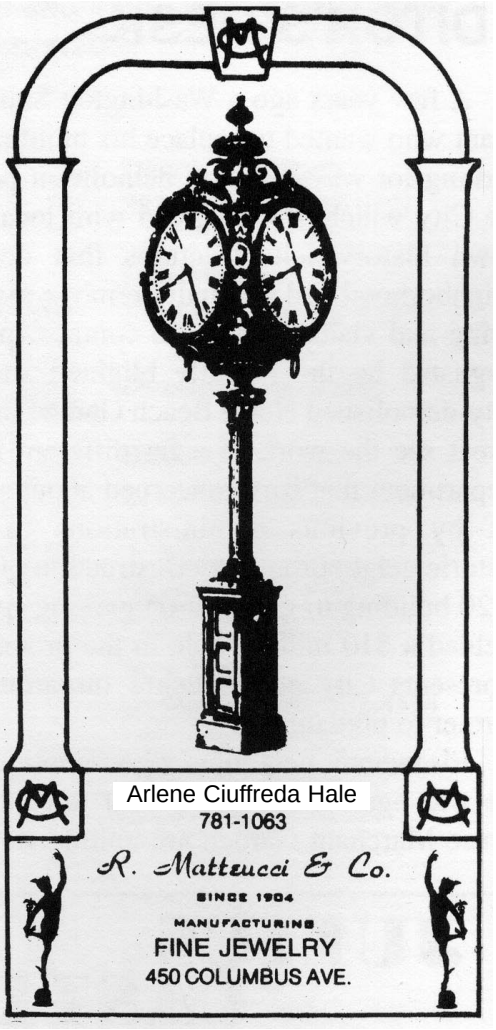

St Francis Shrine to "Rattle" with Birthday Bach

As she will be the first to tell you, Helen von Ammon is not a Catholic. But she has been associated with this charming corner church for some 30 years, long before it became St. Francis of Assisi Shrine.

Helen was a volunteer secretary to the late Monsignor Hayburn, who wrote a wondrous, massive book on medieval music from his upstairs office at the St. Francis. And in 1990, she was one of the first contributors to the restoration of the church's splendid old Schoenstein organ.

Now, to honor Helen von Ammon's 80th birthday, John Renke, music director at the Shrine, will play an all-Bach concert at 4 PM on Sunday, July 28.

Says Helen: "I want the windows to rattle with Bach's most profound music." To which, the Friars reply, "Well, not TOO loud; these windows are very old." The Friars will make you welcome and Helen, in her Southern invitation accent, bids "Y'all COME, y'heah!"

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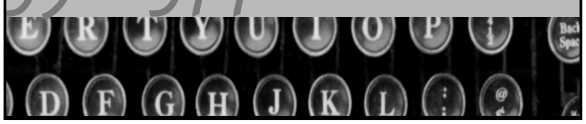

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The Semaphore needs a few good men and women to do small line drawings on neighborhood subjects for space fillers. Please call Bob at 362-6969 or email bob@filbert.net

PROGRAM AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Suzanne Nelson

As we enter the new THD fiscal year, we look forward to another full social calendar that will provide choices for participation. The calendar is studded with dinners and cocktail parties, and there are other special events, too: Jazz on Grant (as part of the North Beach Jazz Festival), an old-fashioned family picnic at Coit Tower (now that the grass has grown in at Pioneer Park), Symphony Night (look for the ad in this issue), and more.

Aside from the regular THD schedule, we receive additional invitations for other events in the community. But we can only send these by e-mail. If you are receiving post cards but have e-mail access, you might consider switching over to make sure you receive these special notices. Any change in address or, how you receive notices, should go through Tom Noyes, Financial Secretary.

As we organize the committee for this year we welcome new members. If you can't serve on the committee, your ideas and comments are always welcome. You can contact me at suzanne_nelson@yahoo.com. Be sure to keep an eye out for those notices and invitations and we look forward to seeing you soon!

All San Francisco Night at Symphony

Friday, Sept. 6, 8 p.m.

It's that time again, when the San Francisco Symphony extends an invitation to community groups to attend its annual All San Francisco Night concert at a reduced rate. This event began years ago as a special opportunity for residents who either rarely or never attended a concert but wanted the experience. Over the years, many THD members have taken advantage of this generous offer. This year's concert, called Virtuoso Violins, presents works by Rachmaninoff and J.S. Bach, plus some special surprises.

We only have 36 tickets so place your orders early. Tickets are limited to two per member. The price is $12 per ticket.

Send checks payable to:
THD - Symphony
P.O. Box 330159
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Be sure to include a
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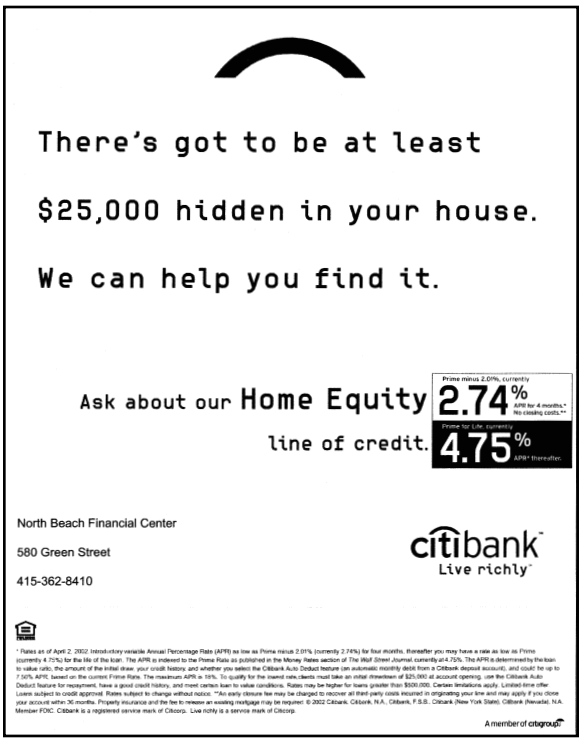

Dante's Divine North Beach

An Excerpt from the THD Oral History Project's Interview with Dante Benedetti
By Art Peterson

If you have been a regular visitor to the New Pisa Restaurant on Green Street over the past several decades, dropping in for the minestrone-to-spumoni treatment, you have probably met Dante Benedetti. The Benedetti family owned this North Beach landmark for over seventy years before Dante sold the place a few years ago. However, until recently, he still spent several hours there every day, greeting customers and chatting with friends.

Even though Dante gives the impression he was born to play the gregarious host, he was not drawn naturally to the restaurant business. His first love was sports. He played football at St. Ignatius High School and at the University of San Francisco. He fought in 89 amateur prize fights without being knocked down. And for 30 years he coached baseball at USF, where the diamond now bears his name.

"I didn't appreciate the restaurant business outside of what it did for me," Dante says. "In the early years, I used to go ask my father for a couple of days of work a week to support my family. When I was coaching, I bartended one night a week and cooked two days a week to supplement my school salary. And then I found out how foolish I was when my dad passed away and I fell heir to the restaurant and found out how much money he was making."

Dante shared this information in a 1999 interview with Audrey Tomaselli, conducted as part of the THD oral history project. A goal of the project is to document some of the ways life has changed in our neighborhood. Dante Benedetti would know a little bit about that, having lived in and around North Beach all his life. His recollections of the old days contrast

Dante Benedetti (r) with Sisters Germana (l) and Olimpia, 1925

DANTE'S NORTH BEACH

continued from previous page

sharply with North Beach life here in 2002.

Now: We have Matchmaker.com.

Then: "My father was working cutting trees up in Willets. And there was a fellow named Cucu Belluomini. He says, 'These two ladies wrote from Italy and they want to come to America. You know it's about time we settle down.'

So my father said, 'Hey, send for them. I'm ready to raise a family.' And they went to New York to meet them. And when the women were ... walking toward them — Belluomini had pictures and he spotted them — and he says, 'I sent for Amelia but she's too skinny for me.' That was the one who turned out to be my mother. She only weighed about 135. And the other lady was a buxom lady, oh, about 220 at least. And my father says, 'Ah, so you take Ginisa and I'll take Amelia. What's the difference?' That's how they got married."

Now: There are police officers dedicated to "community policing" who work with our youth.

Then: "[There was] one guy they used to call Punch-in-the-Belly MacDonald. He was the one that was feared the most here. Punch-in-the-Belly always had the billy club in his hand and if you broke curfew — and it was 9:30 — and you were a young fellow grouped on the corner down on Union Street, well, as soon as Punch-in-the-Belly MacDonald walked down the street, you scattered. Because he would run up and give you either a poke in the belly or a kick on the fanny."

Now: Plans are underway to renovate the kids' play space at North Beach Playground and North Beach Pool.

Then: "For baseball, they used to have the Del Monte Creamery down on Bay Street, where the housing projects are now. The creamery had horses and wagons that went out early in the morning. So on Saturday and Sunday, the younger kids used to choose sides and when the horses went out we got the manure and made first, second and third base.

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The Oral History Committee needs a volunteer with a computer and typing skills to transcribe audio-taped interviews. Please call Audrey at 391-1792

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DANTE'S NORTH BEACH

continued from previous page

"We'd play hooky from school and go swimming at the Dolphin Swim Club down in the bay. We swam near the hot pipes there, where the sewer emptied. And when you came home your mother could smell you, even if you didn't tell the truth."

Now: Webvan couldn't make it as a grocery delivery service.

Then: "The peddlers delivered right to the door. The peddlers used to ring the doorbell. If the housewife didn't want to answer, they'd go on to the next door. But you could buy anything you wanted: fruits, vegetables, whatever you wanted."

Now: People max out one credit card, then get another.

Then: "My mother had an icebox. I says to mother, 'Ma, how, come you don't buy a refrigerator like everybody else in the alley? You're still buying ice.' She says, 'Dante, you buy a refrigerator when you can afford it and you have the money to buy it. In the meantime you buy ice.'"

Now: We form Neighborhood Watches and keep a finger on 911.

Then: "We lived at 27 Jasper Alley. You could walk in my father's basement right from the sidewalk. And there was prosciutto hanging there, the sausages my father made, the salami he made, and the wine. Wide open there. Nobody ever touched anything. I didn't even have a key to get in the house."

Now: At 2 p.m., the children from Garfield School run down Filbert Street to Grant Avenue to catch the school bus home.

Then: "We used to get a cobblestone when we came out of Garfield School and wax it with a candle. The whole hill opposite the school was cobblestones. Then we'd slide down the hill on the cobblestone. There were very few automobiles in those days. You'd slide down and then you'd carry your cobblestone back up and put it back in place where it belonged. But by that time Miss Scherer, the principal, got your name for sliding down the hill and you'd get straps in each hand. Automatic."

Now: Many agonize over how to discipline their children.

Then: "My mother used to wear wooden shoes. She used to send to Italy for them. 'Soccoli' they called them. When she was wearing them I used to stand about ten feet from her and she'd tell me something and I didn't dare answer back. But I might show with my expression some disagreement with what she told me to do. And she'd let the soccolo go and it hit me right in the chest. And I says, 'Ma! I didn't do anything!' And she'd say, 'It's what you're thinking.' The shoe was the warning, and after that it got a little more serious."

Now: We discuss the pros and cons of children from immigrant families holding onto their ethnicity.

Then: "My father would say *Se sei orgoglioso da dove tu vieni, saprai sempre in dove tu vai e sarai orgoglioso da quello che tu fai. Parla italiano o non ti rispondo e non ti do di mangiare*.

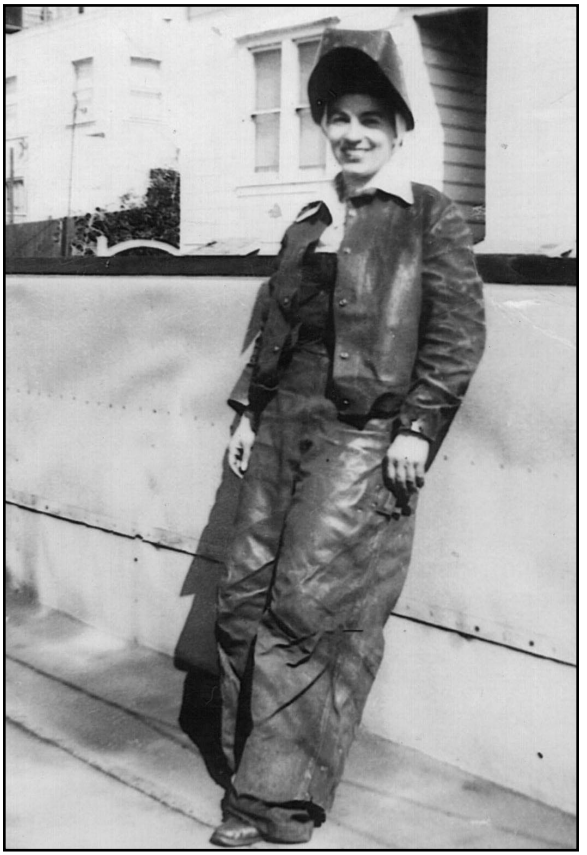
"That translates: 'If you're proud of where you come from you'll always know where you're going and you'll take pride in everything you do. Speak Italian to me or I will not answer you and I won't feed you.' And that was the reason I learned to speak Italian. That scared me. The food was too good. "

For years, Dante Benedetti has served the neighborhood the same good food he knew in his home. This is a man who knows where he's come from and who has reason to be proud of where he's been.

Rosalie's Uniform

By Patricia Cady

Rosalie Taggi has lived on Telegraph Hill since 1930, when she arrived as a bride from Pennsylvania. During World War II she worked as a welder, building Liberty ships at the Richmond shipyards. In the adjacent photo she is wearing her welder's uniform—a retractable metal helmet and 20-pound-weight horsehide overalls—objects now on display at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, as part of a show called "All for One and One for All: Uniforms in Fact and Fantasy." An identical Rosie the Riveter outfit was seen in a wartime Life magazine salute to women working at jobs vacated by servicemen.



Recalling the work, Rosalie said, "We welded rivets onto metal plates, kneeling all day on steel bulkheads. We'd be burned without the overalls. We pulled down the hood to protect our eyes from sparks." She commuted to Richmond by ferry, walking to the Ferry Building before dawn through a neighborhood then dotted by Victory Gardens. That's where families—most with at least one male relative overseas—grew their own vegetables to support the war effort while young ladies, like Rosalie, helped to turn out ships at a pace never matched, and profoundly changed America's workplaces.

Rosalie Taggi, 1944. Her "Rosie the Riveter" uniform is now on display at the American Textile History Museum.

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From the Desk of Supervisor Peskin

By Aaron Peskin

Summer is heating up at City Hall as the Mayor and Board of Super-visors sets next year's budget. This task is particularly formidable this year for City leaders, as a combination of shrinking regional economy and decreasing tourism after September 11 have resulted in a $100 million shortfall in the coming year's budget. This means deferral of capital projects and proposed cuts to some important services. Local leaders are doing our best to minimize cuts that directly affect local residents—including such neighborhood services as gardeners for local parks, street cleaning and neighborhood planning efforts.

One clear solution that must be implemented before cutting programs or raising fees and taxes is to ensure that current fees and taxes are collected thoroughly. To that end, I have introduced legislation—crafted along with Treasurer Susan Leal—that standardizes the historically helter-skelter collection of development mitigation fees and gives the Treasurer responsibility for collection of these fees. Millions of dollars of mitigation fees fell through the cracks during the last economic boom and this legislation is designed to make sure that no more slips away.

Another partial solution to budgetary shortfalls, albeit a long-term one, is holding City departments more accountable for their spending. My office has recently focused on spending at San Francisco International Airport, among other departments. My interest in SFO's spending originated after reports of the airport spending millions of dollars to pitch the airfield expansion project through political lobbyists while environmental studies are still being completed. However, upon learning more about SFO's budget, we've discovered other areas of concern, including the fact that it spends over half of its operating budget ($300 million) simply paying the interest on its current debt. As a result, I've called for an independent audit of the airport's financial management and hope to have the support of fellow supervisors to amend this coming year's budget to include an audit for SFO.

I am extremely pleased to announce that by the time this *Semaphore* comes to press, my office will have introduced legislation reforming street-space parking. As many Hill Dwellers know, a remarkable amount of residential on-street parking space is taken up by construction projects. In response, this legislation calls for: 1) a new fee structure that provides an incentive for projects to minimize their use of street space; 2) new requirements for signage that explain exactly how long parking has been reserved, among other things; 3) a hotline number for action on complaints about parking; 4) additional enforcement staff to enforce limits on use of spaces for construction projects. I want to thank local neighborhood residents, including the Dweller's Parking and Traffic Committee and Hill Dweller Mary Nelson, for

continued on next page

SUPERVISOR PESKIN *continued from previous page*

their persistence in bringing this issue to my attention and for researching possible solutions.

I'm also pleased to announce that I recently sponsored the City's first piece of legislation that takes advantage of the Mills Act, a state law that provides incentives to preserve and improve historic buildings. This legislation specifically approves a contract between the City and the owner of Fire Department Old Station No. 2 (460 Bush Street). In exchange for a moderate reduction in the property taxes for the site, the building will receive significant historic upgrades and guarantees of long-term protection. I'm hopeful that other property owners in our neighborhood and throughout San Francisco will take advantage of the Mills Act to help conserve the City's historic character.

As always, please feel free to contact my office as questions or concerns arise at: 554-7450 or aaron_peskin@ci.sf.ca.us. See you around the neighborhood.

Order Myrick Book Now

As almost everyone who has lived on Telegraph Hill for long knows, *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill* by David Myrick is a collector's item. The out-of-print first edition of this book, lovingly detailing the colorful history of the Hill, sells for $200 these days.

Last year, David agreed to make revisions to the original, and THD agreed to sponsor the second edition of the Myrick book. The new volume includes 32 new pages and 50 more photographs.

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Welcome New Board Members

By Billie Atlas

Six new officers and Board members were welcomed at THD's last membership meeting. They are a diverse group, but have in common a real affection for the neighborhood and a dedication to preserving its unique character. By way of introduction, here are brief profiles of the newcomers:

Marc Bruno

Two years ago while traveling in France, Marc Bruno heard that a cottage at 2 Nobles Alley was targeted for demolition by a local developer. He worked with Aaron Peskin, Nancy Shanahan and Nan Roth to save the cottage ("successfully, so far"). This convinced him that THD gives residents a voice at City Hall. Since then, he has worked on both the Peskin and Harry Britt campaigns.

Marc, a native of Washington, D.C., has lived in this area since 1982. A filmmaker, Marc worked with the U.S. Park Service at Hyde Street Pier to produce "Tales of the Sea". He received a Sundance producing fellowship in 1995 and presented the TV drama "Nicholas' Gift" on CBS in 1998. Marc attended Oberlin College and the University of Paris, and currently is a substitute tutor at the Tel Hi Center on Lombard Street.

Kathleen Dooley

Best known, perhaps, as the proprietor of the neighborhood's unique plant and flower shop, Columbine, Kathleen Dooley is also one of the Hill's most ardent boosters.

A native Californian, born in Palo Alto and raised in Hermosa Beach, Kathleen owns a home on the Filbert steps. A dance major at Mills College, Oakland, she performed with modern dance groups in San Francisco and New York City but, as she says, "a dancer's fate is early retirement."

Kathleen drew on her teenage experience working in a flower shop to open Columbine, first on Green Street and now on Grant Avenue. Also on display at Columbine are her boxer, Jack – featured on the cover of the last Semaphore – and ChooChoo the Cat.

Mary Lipian

As THD's new Corresponding Secretary, Mary Lipian hopes to become more active in continuing her interest in protecting our neighborhood. She and her psychiatrist husband, Mark, have lived in the upper Montgomery Street Historic district for five years and know that it takes a group effort to protect the district.

Mary, another native Californian, grew up on the Peninsula and went East to earn a degree in American history at Yale. This was followed by a Master's in education from UCLA, with an emphasis on child psychology. She is a healthcare administrator with the Aetna healthcare division.

Whatever free time she can find in her busy life is spent on oil painting and playing tennis.

Marv Kasoff

Marv Kasoff, another new Board member, has worked on THD's beautification projects with Julie Christensen and on the rehabilitation of the top of Kearny Street with Gerry Hurtado.

Born and raised in Boston, Marv majored in history at Harvard, Jewish history at Brandeis, and found his niche as a major in education administration at New York University. He worked for 30 years as an administrator in Boston, Chicago and Detroit before retiring with

continued on page 29

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

continued from previous page

his wife to Telegraph Hill to help care for an autistic grandson. Marv sold his communications business to help with the boy's special education needs. The Kasoffs are putting down roots here to be near their children and grandchildren.

Bob McMillan

"Watching the moon rise over Russian Hill, bathed in a light fog", is his favorite view says the *Semaphore's* new editor, Bob McMillan, who adds, "the longer I live here, the more I love it." By joining THD, "I want to give something back to the neighborhood."

A seven year resident via Vancouver and Toronto, Canada, he and his wife, Anna Dow, live next door to Sts. Peter and Paul Church on Filbert Street. Bob has worked on the oral history project with Audrey Tomaselli, and is employed as an editor at technology publication, *Linux Magazine*.

Paul Scott

Paul Scott's two young children are racking up an impressive number of frequent flier miles. This globe-trotting new Board member recently returned from a vacation in Australia with his partner, Yasmine, and children Aidan (age 6) and Sadie (4 months).

Paul arrived in the Bay Area in 1982 from Calgary, Canada to attend college, ultimately graduating from UC Berkeley as an economics major. He then went east to Yale Law School. After a stint at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., he returned to San Francisco in 1995 to open his own law practice. He says he joined THD in 1996 because he "wanted in on the holiday meal at Julius' Castle." Since getting involved, though, he's "become a real convert to the cause."

The family is building a new home on Darrell Place where they hope to put down roots between travels. For relaxation, Paul plays ice hockey at the Yerba Buena Center ice rink.

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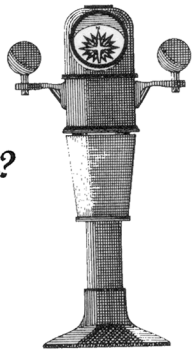

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Ottilia's World

by Michael Alexander

Columbus Cutlery is as unprepossessing as a North Beach shop gets: the parking space before it on Columbus Ave., between Grant Ave. and Vallejo St., is longer than the storefront. If more than three customers are inside the shop, you'll have to wait your turn under the blue awning that shades its narrow double doors.

Once inside, you're surrounded by all manner of sharp edges and points. On display in the store are over 300 chef's, paring, boning and serrated knives, 300 pocket knives, 200 small scissors, 50 clippers, steels, stones, strops, straight razors (and shaving brushes and soap), tweezers, Mandolines, potato chippers, pepper mills, corkscrews and about 100 other kitchen implements.

It's overwhelming, but before you can feel intimidated, you're put at ease by a tiny woman with lively eyes, a matter-of-fact manner and an easy smile. Welcome to Ottilia Malattia's world.

Ottilia will ask you what you want to accomplish, and then show you a selection of the tools that will help you do the job well. Now it becomes a matter of personal choice. Take your time, heft them one by one, and your hand will discover the one that feels custom made for you.

The Cutting Edge

Chefs from the entire Bay Area come to Columbus Cutlery to buy the tools of their profession, then return to have them sharpened. Their business cards border the wall display cases: Aqua, Fog City Diner, Le Petit Robert, Plumpjack Cafe. Haircutters bring their favorite scissors. Some pros come from Texas, Louisiana, even Washington, D.C.

Here's why. On a bright February morning, a purposeful young man wearing a pair of black Chefware pants comes in with a list of knives he needs. He says he's a pastry chef. Ottilia peruses his paper, but before filling the order she asks, "What do you bake?"

As he describes his work, she offers two to four choices for each item. "Hmmm. A serrated knife. Do you cut large cakes?"

"Yes."

"I have them in 10, 12 and 14 inches."

"Actually," he says, "this isn't for me. It's for an apprentice I'm helping. Mine is just about an 8 inch." He thinks a moment, and realizes he needs a bigger one. He leaves, smiling, with the six knives on his list and one for himself.

If it has an edge, Ottilia probably has it in stock. Correction: if it has a quality edge. Ottilia cannot bring herself to sell junk. If you bring her a set of good knives that have been used to exhaustion, she is happy to sharpen them. Deposit a drawer full of Safeway specials on the counter and you will not notice the disapproval on her face, but you will get a gentle discourse on quality. If a knife is not worth the $3 she charges to sharpen it, she will not take your money.

Columbus Cutlery looks and feels like it has been in North Beach for a hundred years. The original grinding wheels peek out from behind well-worn display cabinets. But it was actually opened in 1964 by Ottilia's father-in-law, Cesare Louis Malattia. After he arrived from Lucca in 1956, he sharpened razors at a barber supply company in San Francisco. When that firm closed he stayed home for a couple of months, got bored and announced, "I either find a shop of my own or I go back to Italy." He was 80 years old.

Another Lucchese told him about a tiny shop on Columbus Avenue, a jewelry store whose owner wanted to relocate. Cesare wanted to locate in North Beach because there were so many Italians still here. The deal struck, he

Ottilia's World *continued*

assembled grinding wheels and motors and opened a sharpening shop. Word spread, and in the first month he made enough to pay the rent.

"We could not believe it!" Ottilia says. The family had expected to bankroll him for at least a few months.

Cesare was the third generation of Malattias that had been selling and grinding blades since 1850, starting in their native village of Barcis, in the Friuli region north of Venice. Eventually they settled in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, where they owned two knife stores. After World War II they repatriated to Italy, then immigrated to America.

Cesare's son, Romeo, Ottilia's husband, joined him in the shop from the first day, working from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Then he would catch the Key System train across the Bay Bridge, change clothes and go to his other job supervising 30 employees at the Frieden Calculator factory in San Leandro from 4 p.m. to midnight.

While Cesare worked as the *arotino*, the sharpener, Romeo became the buyer who brought knives, scissors and the panoply of kitchen implements to Columbus Cutlery. Ottilia joined part time in 1969. She remembers that her oldest daughter made the shop's first knife sale, a Swiss Army Classic.

A visitor claims that story is proof that Ottilia remembers every knife they ever sold. She instantly denies it, pointing out that, of course, she would remember the excitement of the first sale. The visitor notes, however, that she also remembers that the first knife he bought from her was a six inch Constant Solingen utility knife. That was 32 years ago.

In 1971, Romeo left his night job to work at Columbus Cutlery full time. When Cesare died, at 90, Ottilia found a baby sitter for Walter, the youngest of their five children, and joined Romeo full time.

The Art of the Knife

You want to know about Romeo and Ottilia. Their love was the opposite of Romeo and Juliette's, with respect and admiration instead of familial hatred, teenage angst and melodrama. "Romeo was a very good businessman," Ottilia

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Ottilia's World *continued*

reminisces with affection. "He graduated in business administration from two universities, Bucharest and Pisa. He added many lines (of knives). I am an adopted Malattia," she says modestly. "The only way I can keep this business is that I learned from him and found good people to work."

A husky, off-duty San Francisco Sheriff's Deputy comes in to have a large folding blade hunting knife sharpened. He volunteers that he's been coming here since he was a kid. He discusses with Ottilia how to buff out a dull finish so that the blade will gleam. It will be done. "This is a $100 knife," he says, snapping it open and shut. "And this is the only place to get it sharpened."

Ottilia takes two sheets from a stack of newspapers and asks him to print his name on the white space in an ad. She lifts his knife from the clear, soft plastic sheet on top of the display case, which protects sharp edges from being dulled by the glass, wraps it so his name is visible, then binds the package with a rubber band. She gives him a claim tag, and enters his name, the knife's brand, style and blade length (she knows by looking) in a spiral notebook. No computers here. It will be ready in two days. Please pay when you pick it up.

Straight blades like this are sharpened by the *arotino* who was good when he started but whose

Michael Alexander

Ottilia Malatta—her nose to the grindstone—at Columbus Cutlery.

THD Board Resolutions

February

The Board unanimously agreed to support the concept of the creation of an Emperor Norton statue in a location at or near the top of the Peter Macchiarini Steps. Approval of the design as a whole is contingent on further review.

The Board authorized up to $250 a year to move the THD website to a new ISP.

March

None

April

The Board approved the THD budget for 2002.

The Board approved Gerry Crowley, Suzanne Nelson, Maya Armour, Joe Luttrell and Audrey Tomaselli as members of the THD Executive Committee.

The Board agreed to recommend to the Redistricting Task Force that additional blocks of Russian Hill be included in District 3 and that no blocks in North Beach be moved to another district, so that the integrity of both neighborhoods is maintained.

Ottilia's World *continued*

quality she has honed for two years. Haircutter scissors, notoriously difficult to sharpen, along with bread knives and anything with a serrated blade (each scallop must be separately ground) go to her son, Walter, a perfectionist and the fifth generation of Malattias to practice this ancient craft. He sharpened 100 serrated steak knives at a time for the House of Prime Rib. Twenty four hundred tiny scallops.

In the 1970s when Vidal Sassoon was the international haircutting star, hundreds of students studied precision cutting at his downtown Grant Ave. salon. They all bought their small scissors at Columbus Cutlery. When they returned for sharpening, Romeo ground, reground and re-reground scissors until they were exactly as Sassoon wanted.

On this bright February day a customer complains to Ottilia that the haircutting scissors she is showing him do not have sharp tips. "It's because they are used so close to the scalp," she explains. When good implements have been refined for hundreds of years, every detail is intentional.

Romeo had a heart attack in 1994. After that he stayed home. He died a year later. Ottilia adores him still. A Polaroid of him, standing open faced, in a beret and work apron, is taped to the display case near Ottilia's stool, just at eye level as she eats her lunch.

She's interrupted by the ring of the gray, wall-mounted Princess phone. It is a telephone rep, selling communications systems. "I thank you for the call," Ottilia says politely, "but I am the smallest business imaginable. One phone is enough."

About Columbus Cutlery:
Address: 358 Columbus Ave.
Phone 362-1342
Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Wednesdays and Sundays

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified rates are $20 for 4 lines, $30 for 5-7 lines. Please call 788-8667 to place an ad. Next deadline is August 1.

THD Welcomes New Members

February to April 2002

GGC III Residental Association, Thomas Arnold, Lisa Stanton & Nicholas Baker, Bill Brady, Craig & Jeanne Brewster, Edward & Paula Bruin, Marc Bruno, Andrew & Leigh Budlong, Claire Carlevaro, Maurice Edelstein, Deborah Fuss, Jan Hildebrand, Joyce Jue, Judith Katz PHD, Herma Hill Kay, Rae Koenig, Anne Stranczek & Sandra London, Jesse & Janet Martinez, Rick Matcovich, Brent & Katherine McDonald, Peggy Mitchell, Kay Murphy-O'Flynn, Kristine Rodriguez & Michael Mussoline, Michael Penner, Carolyn Reese, Leah Schneider, Karen & David Schwenk, Robert Sheridan, Kevan Vander Wahl, Dympna & H. Clinton Vaughan, Sara Marley & Ryan Ver Berkmoes, and Mary Jo Ellen & Bradford Willmore.

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual $25 ____ Household $40 ____ Senior (age 65 and over) $15 ____

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parking and Transportation. Chair, to be determined. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

Planning and Zoning. Coordinator, Mary Lipian, 391-5652. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

***Semaphore*.** Editor Bob McMillan, 362-6969. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair Suzanne Nelson, 986-6210. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Maya Armour, 986-1474. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair Tom Noyes, 981-8520. As prescribed in bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair Arthur Chang, 331-1500, ext. 733. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Neighborhood Beautification Jan Holloway, 398-2055. Creates opportunities to improve, beautify, and preserve the Hill. Through its awards program, recognizes individuals and businesses who enhance our neighborhood. Facilitates cleanup, gardening and graffiti removal.

Oral History Project Chair Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

THD Web Page. Webmaster Peter Overmire, 989-3945. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Representative Gerry Crowley, 781-4201. City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

North Beach Neighborhood Coalition. Representative Gerry Crowley. 781-4201. Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphores.

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THD CALENDAR

2nd Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 552-7774.

JUNE
Members Cocktail Party

JULY
Members Dinner

AUGUST
7th Jazz on Grant Party
26th Picnic at Coit Tower

SEPTEMBER
6th Symphony Night
21st Upper Grant Avenue Art Fair

Look for your invitations for exact times and locations as well as additional events.

Dates and locations subject to change.

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: First Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

For more information, log on to http://www.thd.org